PEARSON 7/2/66

Dodd's Libel Suit

Here are some things you may not know about Sen. Tom Dodd's $5,000,000 libel suit: Our attorney, John Donovan, as of this writing, still has not been able to get served with a copy of the complaint. Dodd was in such a hurry that his Wall Street attorney, John F. Sonnet, went before Judge Alexander Holtzoff late last Friday, when other courts were closed, to file for immediate subpoenas. Yet as of now we have not been served and though we asked for copies of the complaint we have been unable to get one . . .

The case will not come up for trial for at least two years . . . Sonnett told Judge Holtzoff that there was danger of the witnesses leaving town. On the contrary, most of the witnesses had appeared before a closed session of the Senate Ethics Committee and were standing by ready for public testimony. They had been told in the interim not to talk. Now they are subpoenaed to talk.

It looks as if the Senator from Connecticut didn't trust the final decision of his Senate colleagues . . . Dodd has now put his case before every branch of the Federal Government. First, he asked the Senate Ethics Committee to investigate. When they took him seriously, he tried to use his old friends in the FBI and the Justice Department. When they began questioning his former employes, he rushed to the third branch of government, the Federal courts.